

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, September 20. 1709.

I have hitherto examin'd the Affairs of the North but on one Side. The Mis-carriages of the King of Sweden has open'd every One's Mouth against him, in a Time of Distress every Tongue is let loose, and Men never want Reproach to bear them Company in their Adversity, whether they be Kings, Emperors, Princes, or private Persons.

For my part, if I attack'd the Ambition and Exorbitance of the Swede, if I blam'd his unbounded Resentment, his Neglect of the Protestant Cause, his inexorable Cruelty; it was in the Height of his Glory when he struck Terror into Europe, and when a Man might be looking about to see, whether any Power could protect him or

no; when he commanded Princes to send their great Men bound as it were Hand and Foot, to beg his Mercy; when the Complaints of his Envoy at the least Disrespect were enough to make a Man think of Count Zabor, or General Paskul.—Then it was, Gentlemen, that this Paper spoke Truth with Freedom, and its Author scorn'd to restrain his just Remarks for Fear of the Conqueror's Relentment—And indeed he that will be known to speak Truth impartially, must do it in the Face of Danger. Hitherto no Danger, no Tyrant, no Conqueror has been able to awe my Pen; and while Truth dictates, and GOD supports me with Courage to defend or suffer for it, I hope never shall.

But

But I am now come to the other Part of this Work; As the Power of the King of Sweden never restrain'd me from censuring his Exorbitance; so neither shall his Misfortunes make forget the Concern, the Interest of Europe, or of the Protestant Religion, has in his future Preservation, whether I speak of his Person or of his Capacity, as King of Sweden.

For this Reason give me leave to say, if any of the Princes of the North taking Advantage of the present Disasters of the King of Sweden, shall basely fall upon his Dominions, and attempt to dismember Sweden from the rest of the Kingdoms of Europe, as a State or as a Crown; if they shall assist the Czar of Muscovy to conquer Sweden, or indeed any Part of it—— Give me leave to say, so far they undermine the general Peace of Europe, destroy the Liberties of Germany, weaken the Protestant Interest, and expose even themselves as well as their Neighbours to unaccountable Dangers—— And they will make it indispensably necessary to these Parts of Europe, to concern themselves in the Defence of Sweden, to preserve the general Ballance of the North, and re-establish the great Treaty of Munster, which was purchas'd by the Blood and Treasure of the Swedish Nation, and on the Foot of which the Liberties of the Protestant Princes of Germany are to this Day establish'd.

To make this out, therefore give me leave to look a little back into the State of Religion in Germany, at the Time when the Swedes were first concern'd in the Defence of it—— And then to examine the Ballance of Power between the Protestant and Popish Princes and States of Europe, as it stood at the Beginning of the late War here; and from these some Judgments may be made of the real Interest and Concern, all the Protestants of Europe have in the Preservation of Sweden at this time. I shall be able to do this but in a summary Manner at present, being, at the Writing of this in the Month of North Britain, and remote from the Help of Books or Assistance of others, whose Memory might be better furnish'd than my own.

It was about the Year 1627, as I remember, when the Protestants in Germany, having been reduc'd to the utmost Extremity by the Power of the Emperor, were at the Brink of giving up All to the Arbitrary Treatment of their Popish Enemies, all their most powerful Attempts to recover their Liberties, were baffled by the superior Arms of Ferdinand the second Emperor of Germany. The King of Bohemia, the Father of the present Princess Sophia, Dutchess Dowager of Hanover, had been overthrown at the great Battle of Prague. The King of Denmark, at the Head of the united Forces of the Lower Saxony, had been beaten at another bloody Battle, (I forget the Place) and was oblig'd to make his Peace, and abandon the Protestant Cause—— The Conclusions at Leipzick (so they call'd a League form'd by the Duke of Saxony, the Landgrave of Hesse, and all the petty Princes on that side) had provok'd the Emperor to the highest Degree, and the Glorious TILLY had forc'd several of the Members to renounce it for Fear of his Military Executions, and buy their Peace at the Loss of most of their Civil and Religious Liberties. Tilly had sack'd the Imperial City of Magdeburgh in a dreadful Manner, laying the whole City in Ashes, and massacring 17000 People, Men, Women, and Children, without Distinction or Respect to Age or Sex. He had from thence broken into Hesse, and forc'd the Princes of Wurtemberg, the Landgrave of Hesse, the Princes of Darmster, and the Imperial Cities on the Rhine, to renounce the Conclusions of Leipzick; and he was now advancing into Saxony, where he threaten'd the Elector with Fire and Sword, and swore he would make the City of Leipzick another Magdeburgh; the Upper and Lower Palatinate were over-run by the Duke of Bavaria, and there was not one Prince left entire, but the Duke of Brandenburg, who was oblig'd to buy his Peace with low Submissions to the Emperor.

In the Middle of this Distress, when the German Liberty was at its last Gasp, the two oppressed Dukes of Mecklenburg having before sollicited the Court of Sweden for

for Relief, the Storm began in a Cloud, like a Man's Hand, to rise in the North, Religion stretch'd forth her Hands to the brave *Gustavus Adolphus*, and he obedient to her first Summons, landed at *Stralsund*, and the Isle of *Rügen*, with no more than

12000 Men — Here he immediately fall to work with the Imperialists, and beat them out of all the Coast of *Pomeren*, and the Dutches of *Meklenburg*, took *Stettin*, settled the Government on that side in less than seven Weeks, and receiving dressing Invitations from the Princes of the League in *Germany* he advanced into *Brandenburg*.

He had demanded of the Elector of *Brandenburg* the strong Fortres of *Custrin* upon the *Oder*, as a Pass for Security of his Convoys and Reinforcements, and to preserve his Communication, upon Promise of restoring it again, if they did not agree on other Points; and being now upno his Advance into *Germany*, the *Brandenburg* made mighty Difficulties, seem'd uneasie at the *Swedes*, and demanded agaist his Fort of *Custrin*.

So hardly will Men use their Benefactors and Deliverers, till they are effectually deliver'd from the Awe of their Oppressors — The generous *Swede*, not to be charg'd with a Breach of Promise, frankly gives him up, that strong Post — But to let him know he was sensible of his Trifling, marches directly for *Berlin*, and sits down before the Capital City of his Friend, resolv'd to make him declare himself for or against him.

The *Saxon* Duke at the same time wavering and notable, when the *Swedes* began to appear, began to fall off, and the King of *Sweden* was once at the Point of leaving them both, and marching down the *Havel* into the *Lower Saxony*; but Count *Tilly* the Imperial General remov'd all these Difficulties, and advancing with his victorious Army into *Saxony*, the Duke made no more Difficulty to joyn with the

Swedes, and he, that before was fortifying *Torgau* agaist him, and doubtful, whether he shold receive the *Swede*, now flies into his Arms, and going in Person to the King of *Sweden*, befeches him to come with all his Forces to his Assistance.

The King of *Sweden*, tho' a little resenting their Usage, considering how far he had come to their Deliverance, yet frankly joyns with them with all his Forces, and passing the *Elbe* at *Torgau*, and there meeting the Duke of *Saxony*'s Army, they advance to the Plains of *Leipzig*, where Count *Tilly* fairly met them, and where was fought the bloodiest and most terrible Battle, that those Ages of the World ever saw; in which, tho' *Tilly* was superior by 3000 Men, his Army being 44000 Men, and the *Swedes* and *Saxons* but 41000, tho' *Tilly*'s Army was all old Soldiers flush'd with constant Victories, had tattled Blood at the Sack of *Magdeburg*, and were in the Opinion of the World invincible. Nay, tho' at the first Onset, the *Saxon* Army, who were new rais'd Men, was all but 8 Regiments entirely beaten, and pursu'd quite out of the Field by the Imperialists — yet the King of *Sweden* wrung the Victory out of the Hands of the Imperialists, and by mere Valour and downright Fighting, for the old Regiments of *Tilly*'s Army fought like Lions to the last, and refus'd Quarter, beat them out of the Field in such a Manner, that scarce two Regiments of all that Army went off together.

In this Battle, the King of *Sweden* laid the Foundation of the *German* Liberty, and I doubt not to give you good Reasons to prove, the same Liberty may stand in need of the same Protectors, and that therefore we ought not to let the *Swedes* be crush'd at this Juncture, whatever the Misfortunes and Mismanagement of their Monarch may have expos'd them to.

MISCELLANEA.

IN my last but one, I gave an Account of a Church of England Minister soliciting a Justice of the Peace for Charly for the persecuted Clergy of Scotland, instead of the poor *Palatines*. I confess, that Gentleman in his double-faced Solicitation us'd some Policy; as to the Honesty of it, let him answer for that — I have spoken my Mind: as to the Collections made in England for those Gentlemen, which I shall always be forward enough to encourage; I am for relieving them as Gentlemen, as Clergy-Men, and Men-of-Letters, not bred to, and many of them unable for Labour; but as for their being persecuted, there is not one Title of it true.

But I cannot but note three Things here, Part of which is in their Behalf.

1. Those that solicit for them, under the Notion of persecuted Ministers, and exaggerate the Circumstances up to a Comparison with the *Spanish* Inquisition, do injure even the Charly which would extend to them, since many that would otherwise open their Hands to them as depos'd Ministers, the *Non-jurant*, when they find these Pretences of their Sufferings so evidently contradicted, believe it all a Cheat, and will give nothing.

2. I am fully perswaded, that there have been large Sums of Money collected in England for the Relief of these Gentlemen in Scotland, that never was convey'd to them, but has either been embezzled by the Villany and Fraud of the Persons who have collected it, or has been misapply'd to other Persons and Uses, than such for which it has been both ask'd and given. And I say this, because I have heard much, and great Boasts of what some Men in England say they have collected, to Forty, Fifty, and Eighty Pounds a Man in England, and in some Parishes more. And I have seen the Produce of all the Collections paid from England into the Hunds

of the *Episcopal* Ministers in Scotland; appointed to receive and distribute it; and if I am not mistaken, the highest Sum receiv'd from England in one Year, and that in the same Year when these boasted Collections were made, did not amount to above five Hundred Pounds, or to but very little more; in which it must be true, that either these honest Clerymen that collected here, boasted of more than ever they collected, or else that they cheated the poor Clergy in Scotland they gather'd it for.

3. The last Thing, I shall note, is, That as hitherto the Clamour of Persecution has been detected to be groundless, and they have been ashame'd of calling *stamping* Non-jurors, *Persecution*, They are now brought to a Necessity of purchasing the the Word *Persecution*, by offering all the Affronts to the Church and Government of Scotland, they can; that either the Church and State must give up their establish'd Rights, or these People must have the Laws executed upon them; and this I say to prepare you to hear of more Persecutions.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Just Publish'd,

THE Monthly Miscellany, or Memoirs for the Curious, for May, 1709, Vol. III. Containing, *Fossilia Sheppelianæ Catalogus*. African Plants. Plants growing about the Cape of Good-Hope. Of the Origine of the Art of Writing. Continuation of the Discourse of Languages. GOD further vindicated, from the Aspersions of those of the Upper and Lower Way. Essay on Duelling, continu'd. Printed for J. Woodward, in St. Christopher's Church-Yard, Thread-needle-Street; and Sold by John Morpeth, near Stationers-Hall.